century B.C.). Historical romances were also written, usually clustering around famous individuals and combining both fact and fiction.

Toward the end of the Chou new forms of poetry appeared, possibly representing the influence of the "barbarians" who were then being assimilated into Chinese stock. Probably the most famous examples of these is by Ch'ii Yuan (whom we have already mentioned as a statesman of the partially Chinese principality of Chou and as traditionally associated with the Dragon Boat Festival). His poem, the *Li Sao,* in which he pours out his soul in lament and so discloses himself and his ideals to posterity, is one of the most famous in all Chinese literature. Some doubt has been cast on the authorship and even on the existence of Ch'ii Yuan, but the composition appears to belong to* this period. It certainly registers a high-water mark of literary achievement.

In the last centuries of the Chou China was coming to have more numerous contacts with the peoples to the west. The empire of the Persians and the succeeding one of Alexander must have brought the cultures of Iran and the Occident somewhat nearer to her, and her own expanding frontiers were reaching toward Central Asia. It is not surprising, therefore, that the fringes of the two foreign civilizations should somewhere nearly touch hers in what is now the New Dominion and that along the land routes commercial intercourse should have arisen. This intercourse seems to have enlarged somewhat the Chinese knowledge of geography. It appears also to have brought in more advanced astronomical and mathematical ideas and the elements of the related pseudo-science, astrology. The modifications in the

calendar and the method of reckoning time which were made more than once under the Chou may have entered from abroad.

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS OF PHILOSOPHY

The outstanding intellectual achievement of the Chou was in the realm of philosophy. Philosophy seems to have arisen in the sixth century B.C. Certainly its great development was in that and the following centuries. Why it came to birth when it did must be in part a matter of conjecture. The period roughly corresponds with the rise of Greek philosophy, with some of the most creative years of the Hebrew spirit, with the beginning of